



Patent Application
44660-1

APPENDIX: CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

CI
E1

1. (Three times amended) A method comprising the steps of:
maintaining a database of personal information relating to
a consumer, the personal information having been previously
provided by the consumer and including preferred providers
identified by the consumer or by prior purchases thereby;
receiving a request initiated by the consumer and
transmitted over a global communication network to a system;
selecting, responsive to the received request initiated by
the consumer and based upon the request and the preferred
providers in the database, at least one name of at least one
provider; and
forwarding the selected at least one name of the at least
one provider from said system to said consumer, wherein said
consumer is subsequently capable of choosing a provider from the
selected at least one provider to communicate therewith.

1
2 E1
3
4 C2
5

4. (Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said step of
selecting further includes the step of using a name linking
policy to select the at least one name of the at least one
provider while utilizing one or a combination of subject matter
information, demographic information and geographic information.

1
2
3 C3
4 E1
5

18. (Three times amended) A system comprising:
a database for storing information associated with a
consumer, the information including preferred providers
identified by the consumer or by prior purchases made thereby;
and

RECEIVED
APR 10 2003
GROUP 3600

6 a server for receiving a request initiated by said consumer
7 and transmitted over a global communication network, said server
8 further including:

9 a module for selecting, responsive to the received
10 request and based upon said request and said preferred providers
11 stored in the database, at least one name of at least one
12 provider; and

13 a controller for forwarding the selected at least one
14 name of the at least one provider to said consumer, wherein said
15 consumer is then capable of choosing a provider from the
16 selected at least one provider to communicate and, optionally,
17 complete a business transaction therewith.

1 25. (Three times amended) A method for providing a consumer
2 with a customized presentation containing the names of various
3 providers of goods and services that are selected, said method
4 comprising the steps of:

5 storing, within an intermediary system, consumer-provided
6 information associated with said consumer;

7 receiving a request initiated by said consumer and
8 transmitted over a global communication network to said
9 intermediary system;

10 selecting, responsive to the received request and based
11 upon said information associated with said consumer and stored
12 in said intermediary system, at least one name of at least one
13 provider;

14 forwarding the selected at least one name of the at least
15 one provider within a customized presentation to said consumer,
16 wherein said consumer is then capable of choosing a provider

17 from the selected at least one provider to communicate and,
18 optionally, transact business therewith;
19 operating, within said intermediary system, as an
20 intermediary between said consumer and said chosen provider; and
21 updating he information associated with the consumer based
22 upon a provider chosen thereby with which to transact business.

1 37. (Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:
2 maintaining a database of personal information relating to
3 a consumer, the personal information including a list of at
4 least one preferred provider of goods or services;
5 receiving a search request initiated by the consumer over a
6 global communications network, the request identifying a type of
7 goods or services;
8 identifying one or more providers of the type of goods or
9 services requested based upon the at least one preferred
10 provider;
11 presenting the one or more providers to the consumer;
12 enabling the consumer to complete a transaction with a
13 provider from the one or more providers chosen by the consumer;
14 and
15 updating the list of at least one preferred provider based
16 upon the one or more providers chosen by the consumer to
17 complete the transaction.

1 45. (Amended) An apparatus for facilitating a transaction
2 between a consumer and a provider of goods or services over
3 communications network, the apparatus being adapted to:

4 maintain a database of personal information relating to a
5 consumer;

6 receive a search request initiated by the consumer over a
7 global communications network, the request identifying a type of
8 goods or services, the search request having a single set of
9 characters forming a plurality of fields, a first field having a
10 common name as between different search requests and a second
11 field identifying the type of goods or services to be searched
12 without specifying a specific provider of goods or services;

13 identify, responsive only to the search request without
14 additional search information being directly provided by the
15 consumer, one or more providers of the type of goods or services
16 requested, the one or more providers being identified based upon
17 the personal information relating to the consumer in the
18 database;

19 present the one or more providers to the consumer; and
20 enable the consumer to complete a transaction with a
21 provider from the one or more providers chosen by the consumer
22 using the personal information in the database.

1 53. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

2 maintaining a database of personal information relating to
3 a consumer;

4 receiving a request initiated by the consumer and
5 transmitted over a global communication network to a system,
6 said request having a single set of characters forming a
7 plurality of fields, a first field having a common name as
8 between different requests and a second field identifying a type

9 of goods or services without identifying a specific provider
10 thereof;

11 selecting, responsive only to the received request
12 initiated by the consumer without additional search information
13 being directly provided by the consumer and based upon the
14 personal information relating thereto in the database, at least
15 one name of at least one provider; and

16 forwarding the selected at least one name of the at least
17 one provider from said system to said consumer, wherein said
18 consumer is subsequently capable of choosing a provider from the
19 selected at least one provider to communicate therewith.
20

1 61. (Amended) A system comprising:

2 a database for storing information associated with a
3 consumer;

4 a server for receiving a request initiated by said consumer
5 and transmitted over a global communication network, the request
6 comprising a single set of characters representative of typed
7 text, the typed text including a first field having a common
8 name as between different requests and a second field for
9 identifying at least one type of goods or services without
10 identifying a specific provider thereof, said server further
11 including:

12 a module for selecting, responsive to the received
13 request without additional information directly provided by the
14 consumer and based upon personal information relating to the
15 consumer in the database, at least one name of at least one
16 provider; and

17 a controller for forwarding the selected at least one
18 name of the at least one provider to said consumer, wherein said
19 consumer is thereafter enabled to choose a provider from the
20 selected at least one provider to communicate and selectively
complete a transaction therewith.